

May 2017

City Council Members:

- Ron Bigelow, Mayor
- Don Christensen, At-Large
- Lars Nordfelt, At-Large
- Tom Huynh, District 1
- Steve Buhler, District 2
- Karen Lang, District 3
- Steve Vincent, District 4

Public Meetings:

City Council – first four Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Planning Commission – second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 4 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

City Phone Numbers:

Main Number.....801-966-3600
 Police Dispatch.....801-840-4000
 Fire Department.....801-963-3336
 Emergency.....911
 Fitness Center.....801-955-4000
 Garbage.....801-955-3720
 Storm Water Utility.....801-963-3334
 Code Enforcement.....801-963-3289

Website:

www.wvc-ut.gov

City Hall Address:

West Valley City Hall
 3600 S. Constitution Blvd.
 WVC, UT 84119

City Hall Hours:

Monday – Thursday
 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.



West Valley City Police Department Becomes Only Nationally Accredited Agency in Utah



West Valley City is now home to the only nationally and independently accredited police department in the entire state of Utah. After a challenging three and a half year journey, the WVCPD received national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) on March 25, 2017. National accreditation is considered to be the “gold standard” in law enforcement and is a distinction held by fewer than five percent of police departments nationwide.

West Valley City Police Chief Lee Russo set the police department on the path to accreditation shortly after he was appointed to the force in August 2013. Chief Russo wanted a department that was transparent, that had an open dialogue with the community and that operated under the best practices of law enforcement. Chief Russo determined that securing CALEA accreditation was the best way for the WVCPD to look critically at itself in an effort to meet those goals.

“Aligning the Department’s operations and policies with

CALEA standards is a painstaking and intensive process requiring a critical review of the entire Police Department,” explained Chief Russo. “It represents our commitment now, and our commitment long into the future, that this city’s police department is committed to continual improvement and best practices in all that we do.”

As part of the accreditation process, the West Valley City Police Department was required to demonstrate its compliance with 159 comprehensive “best practices” standards governing all facets of operations, including both internal and public transparency and accountability. “We are dedicated to maintaining accountability and transparency and serving our community with the highest degree of honor, professionalism and service possible,” said Chief Russo. This critical review is “about doing business consistent with the way you say you’re going to do business and holding yourself accountable,” said Chief Russo. “That’s why it takes three years.”

To assess the WVCPD’s progress toward meeting its strict standards, CALEA assessors came to West Valley City in early October of 2016. The assessors scrutinized the department, reviewed the policies and procedures of the WVCPD and

made any final recommendations for adjustments. The assessors also sought feedback from the community and received what CALEA Assessor, Rob Sofie called a "pretty overwhelmingly positive" response." Sofie explained, "there's clearly a flavor, a theme [that] things have changed over the last three years,

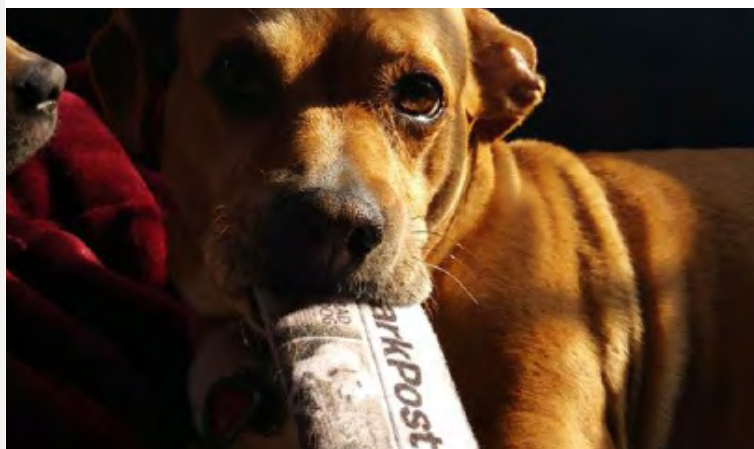
and it's being favorably received and reported."

Receiving this accreditation is only the beginning of a lasting commitment to this community for the West Valley Police Department. Accredited agencies must submit themselves again for an independent audit every three years, so police departments must constantly

work to improve themselves. "We have to continue to work to maintain this accreditation and demonstrate our competency over and over again, said Chief Russo. "This is a commitment that we gladly make. West Valley City residents deserve the best and we are committed to continuously striving to be our best."

Bark Post: A Monthly Column

By Amalee, Community Watchdog



Be My Voice For Kids

Pets and kids go together like summertime and watermelon. But kids are still learning; sometimes they misunderstand or mishandle pets. This causes stress and trauma for pets, and can lead to injury for your child. Please be my voice. Teach kids how to successfully and safely interact with pets. Here are some tips:

1. Babies and young toddlers experience the world through five senses—sight, sound, touch, taste, smell. They are curious. It takes time for them to learn the impact of what they put in their mouths, or that their touch can cause pain. Babies love the shine of eyes, for example, and may want to touch a pet's eye. It's important to gently redirect very young children from touching that could lead to injury, for a pet or themselves. Create safe spaces in your house or yard where a pet can retreat and not have a child follow.
2. Pets, like humans, give off signals about how we are feeling. If a cat feels threatened, she may hiss and arch her back. If a dog feels cornered, he may growl and raise his lip to show his teeth. Teach your children the communication of animals so

they can understand when an animal is scared and they need to back off, or when an animal is happy. It can be gratifying to learn the facial expressions and body language of your pet, and it helps keep everyone safe.

3. Don't allow a child to hit an animal. This is inappropriate. If you model inappropriate behavior for your child, they will mirror it back to you. For help with positive reinforcement for training your pet, follow organizations like the Humane Society: http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/dog_training_positive_reinforcement.html
4. Pets enjoy our time with humans, but we are not playthings; we should not be forced into situations that make us uncomfortable. Teach your child that animals are beings, not things. A child may not know how to hold, pet, or carry a pet safely unless you show them.
5. Sometimes parents put a child in charge of a pet to teach responsibility, which can be great. But don't let us be neglected and suffer as a "lesson" for your child. We need food, water, shelter, safety, a clean environment, and love every day, just as your children do. Model for them how to give us the best possible quality of life, and receive our unconditional love in return.
6. Children bond with pets through caretaking, such as accompanying you on vet visits and helping to give food and water, cleaning up after us, etc. This can be incredibly beneficial for a child's self-esteem. You also make family pets part of celebrations—for me and my adopted brother Beckham, our family celebrates the day they adopted us with a doggie cake and presents. They give us holiday toys and treats, too.
7. Teach your child that pets are family.

Thanks for listening, Amalee

Why License Your Pet

By Nathan Beckstead, Animal Services Field Supervisor



How would it be if 85% of the dogs brought into the shelter went home within 24 hours? How about a 97% save rate on animals that enter the shelter? In Calgary, Canada and Spokane, Washington these are realities. The West Valley City and Taylorsville animal shelter is a "No Kill" shelter; and we have great stats like a 93% save rate, but how do we go from innovative and great to inspirational? One of the simplest solutions is to license our dogs and cats.

Forget about the fact that licensing is the law and failure to do so could result in fines. A license is your pet's best and fastest way home. In 13 years as an Animal Control Officer I have seen the best pet owners have their pets get out and never get back home. These "escapes" sometimes were not even the owners fault: A neighbor's kid threw a baseball through a window and the dog found its way out; weather caused a fence to blow down; or the worst - a break in which results in the pet escaping.

While unfortunate situations like these do happen, it is usually just the sheer chaos of life that causes our pets to escape. How many of us have crazy mornings trying to get the kids ready for school while getting ourselves ready for work; the Sunday morning hustle to make church on time; or the exhaustion of coming

home from work only to have dinner to make still? All of us could accidentally leave the door open just enough that a paw could open it up or run to the car and not take the time to put the dog on a leash because "Rover" never leaves our side. I can tell you that I have heard and seen every reason you can imagine for a pet getting loose or running off when it never has happened before.

The saddest part of all this is that great owners who just don't license sometimes take days to find their lost pet and sometimes never get them back. And the worst is when we, as Animal Control Officers, pick up a pet that has been injured or is ill and needs more vet care than we can offer. Why do things like this happen? Because when the Animal Control Officer picked up the dog or cat they didn't know where to take it; so, it goes to the shelter. If "Rover" just had a license then in most situations Animal Control would deliver "Rover" back home. This would also save you, the owner, shelter fees that need to be charged when a pet has to stay with us.

A pet license truly is your dog or cats ride home should something ever happen. So if we could reach 90% compliance for licensing like Calgary, Canada then not only would we be leaders in this area, we would also be showing that we truly care about animal welfare, care, and control. So please get your pet's rabies vaccination and then come to City Hall or the Animal Shelter and license your pet. Make an Animal Control Officer's day by giving them the means to bring your beloved pet home.

**Pets are part of
your family.**

**Keep them
licensed. Keep
them safe. Keep
them home.**

How does licensing help?

1. If a lost pet is brought to the animal shelter by a resident, we can quickly look up the tag number and contact the owner for a quick reunion. In 2015, we reunited 901 lost pets with their owners.
2. If a resident finds a loose animal, we can contact the owner and arrange for a reunion.
3. If an Animal Control Officer finds a loose pet, they can find the pet's home and return it without ever bringing it to the shelter. This reduces your pet's exposure to disease and other animals.
4. If your pet has medical issues, they can be indicated on the license, protecting them if they get loose and you are not reachable.

Dogs, cats, ferrets and pot-bellied pigs are required to be licensed in West Valley City.

For more information about licensing your pet, call 801-965-5800 or visit www.wvcpets.com.



4522 West 3500 South
West Valley City, UT 84120
801-965-5800 | www.wvcpets.com

West Valley City Police Department Launches CodeRED Emergency Alert System



Last month, the West Valley City Police Department launched the CodeRED emergency notification system. This alert system allows users to receive emergency notifications about things like missing children, disasters, emergencies that have a severe traffic impact on an area, or things like crime trends that we spot

in your neighborhood. Even if you don't live in West Valley City, you can set your alerts so that if you pass through West Valley City, you'll be notified of any emergencies happening while you're here.

"CodeRED's robust system will provide the West Valley City Police Department with a reliable, easy-to-use interface to quickly disseminate critical information to our citizens during emergencies. We are very eager to use this technology to enhance our emergency preparedness plans," said West Valley City Police Chief Lee Russo.

The best part is, you choose how much or how little notifications you'd like to receive. Sign up to receive phone calls or texts at www.wvc-ut.gov/codered. You can also download the CodeRED app to your Apple or Android device.

Make sure that when an emergency strikes, you are among the first to know!



Construction season is upon us, and several major projects are expected to impact travel in and around West Valley City. Visit www.wvc-ut.gov/construction to learn about these projects and find out how they will impact you.

Upcoming Events

#ThursdayLeague Food Trucks
Every Thursday, 5 - 9 PM
Fairbourne Station

May

- 10 WVC Watch Wednesday
City Hall, 6 PM
- 10 Community Meeting with Chief Russo
City Hall, 7 PM
- 11 Professional Standards Review
Board Meeting (Citizens' Review
Board)
City Hall, 9 AM
- 29 Memorial Day Holiday
City Offices Closed

June

- 2 Free Movie in the Park
Centennial Park, Dusk
- 7 Meet with Mayor Ron Bigelow
City Hall, 4:30 - 6 PM
- 8 Professional Standards Review
Board Meeting (Citizens' Review
Board)
City Hall, 9 AM
- 14 WVC Watch Wednesday
City Hall, 6 PM
- 14 Community Meeting with Chief Russo
City Hall, 7 PM
- 15 West Fest (Through June 18)
Centennial Park
- 16 Free Movie in the Park
Centennial Park, Dusk
- 17 WestFest 5K & 10K
Centennial Park, 7:10 AM

Visit wvc-ut.gov/events for a complete list.

**Harman Senior Recreation Center
Calendar:** www.wvc-ut.gov/harman



Country Club Wedding

Without the Country Club Price

For more information call 801-966-4653 Ext. 4
or visit overlookattheridge.com.

5055 South West Ridge Boulevard, West Valley City, Utah 84118

